

# ALASKA PIONEER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

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## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER 1998

### MAY

Thursday, May 14, 7 PM. Meet at Boyer Photography, 2813 North Star, Anchorage (near Matanuska Dairy) to embark on an evening tour of apple trees around Anchorage: the 8th & M tree, 15th St. mystery tree, and others.

### JUNE

Saturday, June 6, 1 PM, at Jim Yassicks' in Birchwood. Apples, pears, a dwarf Russian almond, and grapes in a greenhouse, which started to leaf out in mid-March! DIRECTIONS: From Anchorage, take the Glenn Highway to South Birchwood exit. Turn L at the end of the ramp onto Birchwood Loop, go 3.5 miles around numerous right-angle bends, and turn right on Jayhawk. The house is the first one on the left, behind a 6-foot cyclone fence. From Palmer, take the Glenn Highway to the North Birchwood exit. Turn right at the end of the ramp and immediately go left on Pilots Road, snaking around the front of a group of businesses. The name of the road changes to Sunset Blvd. where it bends right at a sharp corner at the top of a hill; at the base of this hill (0.8 mile from the start of Pilots Road), go left on Jayhawk. The house is the last one on the right, about 1.2 miles from the start of Pilots Road).

### JULY AND AUGUST: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Association being a Chapter of NAFEX. NAFEX has no recognized chapters. 2) Clarify memberships and Dues. Annual dues will run from 1 January to 31 December payable by the 1st of March. 3) Addition of another Board Member at Large. Because our Secretary and Treasurer offices are usually held by the same person we needed another Board member to comply with the Bylaws. Dwight Bradley will be the additional Board Member at Large.

- A seal for the Association was proposed by Bob Boyer, Dwight is going to scan it and refine the design.
- At last February's membership meeting it was proposed to give away 6 memberships at the State Fair in Palmer this year. A 1-year membership will be awarded for 1st place in the crabapple class as well as in the 2" and over apple class for each week's entries. There will be three weeks competition this year compared to the usual two. The proposal was passed.
- Volunteer Opportunity! We need volunteers to help put together an informational display board for the Fair, the display board will also be used for gardening events. Anyone with photos of their producing trees are encouraged to donate them or send the negatives and we'll get new prints made and return your negatives. Any ideas for this project would be greatly appreciated.
- We also need volunteers for a committee to propose changes for the tree fruit competition at the Fair. Sally Karabelnikoff, the superintendent of the crops division for the State Fair, is very willing to implement changes for the tree fruits and has asked us for help. These proposals would take effect at the 1999 Fair. Proposed changes would be for the apple classes to be changed from existing: 1) less than 1", 2) 1" range and 3) 2" and over, replacing these with

## CLUB BUSINESS

—Kevin Irvin

- A Board of Directors meeting was held on 9 April 1998, the Board discussed proposed amendments to the Bylaws and then by a unanimous vote they were adopted. The purpose for the change was to clean up and clarify some of the language. Highlights of the amendments are as follows; 1) Delete any reference of the

A) cooking, B) eating and C) all purpose. What we need is a list of what varieties that we can grow and ripen here in Alaska, then break them down into the proposed classes. If you don't have time to serve on the committee but have any ideas please send them in. Please send all inquiries, ideas, photos etc. to Kevin Irvin at 3705 Arctic Blvd. #2915 Anchorage, AK. 99503 or call him at 338 - 6510.

- 1998 DUES: Due to the change in Officers, if anyone has a question as to whether their dues are current please contact Debbie Hinchey. In the past, members who hadn't paid their dues would still receive notices and newsletters, and since they were receiving these probably assumed they were paid up. Our books are now up to date and if your dues are not paid for 1998 this will be your last mailing until you are current with your dues.

### **MESSAGE FROM CLAIR LAMMERS ON USE OF ROOTING HORMONE IN GRAFTING**

Clair Lammers of Fairbanks sent the following email on April 23, 1998.

"I tried something different while grafting this spring. I dipped 64 grafts in HORMODON 1 (Indole-3-butyric Acid 0.1%). Only one of the dipped grafts failed to grow. Also, I only dipped the graft that was not a complete fit (slightly mis-cut, to a cut to long/short). After dipping, I slightly tapped the graft on the edge of a can (to remove excess) and grafted normally. I'm impressed with it. When my Honeycrisp arrived, having only 8 rootstock left, I grafted those 8---5 were dipped and 3 not. The five started to show green tip 3 days earlier than the other 3. I feel that dipping them improved the 'take' and also starts the plant earlier. Our weather has been GREAT-chokecherries have leaves 2 inches long. All apricots (are covered with buds), most plums and cherry plums are in popcorn bloom and all crab and apple crabs and some of the apples are well into green tip. On the pin cherries, you can see the individual blossoms. It is too EARLY."

### **WEBSITE OF INTEREST**

Wilson Irrigation and Orchard Supply, of Washington, has a website at [www.wilsonirr.com](http://www.wilsonirr.com).

### **RESULTS OF ALASKAN APPLE-TREE CENSUS**

So far, 10 growers have responded to the Alaskan apple census by filling out and returning the form from the last Newsletter. If you have not yet returned your census form, please do so by July 10.

### **ALASKAN APPLE-TREE CENSUS RESPONSE FROM JERROLD KOERNER OF KETCHIKAN**

One of the most interesting census reports received so far was from Jerrold Koerner of Ketchikan. He is growing 262 varieties of apple, of which 25 are producing. His variety list is reproduced below; it includes a number of English varieties. The oldest trees are now ten years old. His favorite three varieties are Williams Pride, Wynoochie Early, and Vista Bella. For a beginner, he'd recommend either Akane or Summerred on EMLA-7. His favorite rootstock is EMLA-7; other rootstocks that seem to be doing okay are MARK, EMLA-26, EMLA-111, and EMLA-106; Bud-9, P-2, and Antonovka aren't doing so well. His address is Jerrold Koerner, Jerry Appleseed Nursery, P.O. Box 6292, Ketchikan, AK 99901

1	Akane	P	71	Mary Reid	N
2	Tydeman Early Red	P	72	Jefferis	N
3	Wynoochie Early	P	73	Mio	N
4	Redfree	P	74	Summer Orange	N
5	Morden 359	P	75	Dunning	N
6	Irish Peach	P	76	Pink Sweet	N
7	Lustre Elstar	N	77	Oriole	N
8	Royal Gala	N	78	Golden Sweet	N
9	Sops of Wine	N	79	Goodland	N
10	Northfield Beauty	P	80	James Grieve	N
11	Duchess of Oldenburg	N	81	Sinta	N
12	Lowland Raspberry	N	82	Hazen	N
13	Pink Pearl	P	83	Himikami	N
14	Laxtons Fortune	N	84	Summer Banana	N
15	Summerred	P	85	Bouquet of Burgundy	N
16	Lamb Abbey Pearmain	N	86	Beverly Hills	N
17	Williams Pride	P	87	Ranger	N
18	Discovery	P	88	Red Butterscotch	N
19	Monarch	P	89	Baker Sweet	N
20	Jerseymac	N	90	Yeager Sweet	N
21	Summer Scarlet	P	91	Korobovka	N
22	Geneva Early	N	92	Mantet	N
23	Chenango Strawberry	N	93	Maidens Blush	N
24	Lodi	P	94	Early Strawberry	N
25	Mollie's Delicious	N	95	Edward VII	N
26	Summer Queen	N	96	Kerry Pippin	N
27	Hackworth	N	97	Parkland	P
28	Alexanders	N	98	Ralph's Red	N
29	Summer Champion	N	99	Twinkling Star	N
30	Lubsk Queen	P	100	Guldborg	N
31	Scarlet Gala	P	101	Lymans Large Summer	N
32	Sansa	N	102	Patton	N
33	Pristine	N	103	Parentene	N
34	Norland	P	104	Harcourt	N
35	Morden 363	N	105	Fulford Gala	N
36	Breakey	N	106	Red Wealthy	N
37	NJ 46	N	107	Paulared	N
38	Quinte	N	108	Red Sumbo	N
39	Red Melba	P	109	Primate	N
40	Red June	N	110	Hibernal	N
41	Jonamac	N	111	Dudley	N
42	Sunrise	P	112	Rosthern 15	N
43	Lords Seedling	N	113	Rosthern 18	N
44	Alton	N	114	Williams Early Red	N
45	Vista Bella	P	115	Novamac	N
46	Aerlie Redflesh	N	116	Early Cortland	N
47	Tetofski	N	117	Katja	N
48	Early Joe	N	118	Tom Putt	N
49	Devonshire	P	119	Shamrock	N
	Quarrendon		120	Washington Strawberry	N
50	Munster	N	121	July Red	N
51	Liveland Raspberry	N	122	McLean	N
52	Lobo	N	123	Blairmont	N
53	Early Harvest	N	124	Russet Beauty	N
54	Coes Golden Drop	N	125	Pitmaston pineapple	N
55	Somerset of Maine	N	126	St. Edmunds Pippin	N
56	Orient Beauty	N	127	Early Thompson	N
57	Rosemary Russet	P	128	Co-op 39	N
58	Sweet Bough	N	129	Orange Sweet	N
59	Red Astrachan	N	130	Summer Cider	N
60	Alice	N	131	Swiss Gourmet (Arlet)	N
61	Red Baron	N	132	Ellisons Orange	N
62	State Fair	N	133	Golden Supreme	N
63	Starr	N	134	Sharon	N
64	Summer Rose	N	135	Earligold	P
65	Marlin Stephens	N	136	Honey Cider	N
66	Stearns	N	137	Redsleeves	N
67	Accordian	N	138	Bailey Sweet	N
68	Hollow Log	N	139	Scarlet Pimpernel	N
69	Aunt Rachel	N	140	Y 16884	N
70	Summer Lady Finger	N	141	Fenton	N

142	Leonard Transparent	N	209	NY 400	N
143	Tauton Cross	N	210	Carrol	N
144	Late Transparent	N	211	mertons Ace	N
145	Jackson	N	212	Summer Limbertwig	N
146	Hoag	N	213	Wax Orange	N
147	Home Sweet	N	214	Golden Pearmain	N
148	Safstaholm	N	215	Akero	N
149	Early Ripe	N	216	Golden Glo	N
150	Summer Bellflower	N	217	Benoni	N
151	Early Sheepnose	N	218	Summer Sweet	N
152	Porter	N	219	Viking	N
153	Early Banana	N	220	Detroit Red	N
154	Crimson Beauty	N	221	Paduckah	N
155	Summer King	N	222	Emneth Early	N
156	Spice Apple	N	223	August Red	N
157	Kids Orange Red	N	224	Puritan	N
158	Champlain	N	225	Lord Lambourne	N
159	Mertons Beauty	N	226	Atlas	N
160	Mertons Worchester	N	227	Rougemont	N
161	Worchester Pearmain	N	228	Margret	N
162	Mertons Joy	N	229	Norcue	N
163	Laxtons Leader	N	230	Scotia	N
164	Cox's Orange Pippin	N	231	Crimson King	N
165	George Cave	N	232	Calvin	N
166	Zigeunerinapfel	N	233	Early Gravenstein	N
167	Summer Gold	N	234	Norfolk Royal	N
168	Close	N	235	Strawberry Pippin	N
169	Strickler	N	236	C.P. Close	N
170	Milton	N	237	Golden Precoce	N
171	Summer Ribbon	N	238	Iowa Beauty	N
172	Prima	N	239	Eves Delight	N
173	Skovofoged	N	240	Red Transparent	N
174	Spledour	N	241	Pepin Chernenko	N
175	Early Bird Red	N	242	Epicure	N
176	Beauty of Bath	N	243	Mandan	N
177	Coles Quine	N	244	Whie McMahon	N
178	American Summer Pearmain	N	245	Garden Royal	N
179	Yellow Sweet	N	246	Starks Summer Treat	N
180	Arthur Turner	N	247	Lady Sudeley	N
181	Schoolhouse	N	248	Fallwater	N
182	Empress	N	249	Hawley	N
183	White Astrachan	N	250	Sweet Alford	N
184	Directeur Lesage	N	251	Mertons Prolific	N
185	Early Banta	N	252	Signe Tillisch	N
186	Autumn Sweet	N	253	Linda	N
187	July Tart	N	254	Duchesses Favorite	N
188	Wellington	N	255	Yellow June	N
189	Devonshire Crimson Queen	N	256	Twenty Ounce	N
190	NY 397	N	257	Caravel	N
191	Venus Pippin	N	258	Washington Greening	N
192	Earliest	N	259	Collins June	N
193	Bevans Favorite	N	260	Milo Gibson	N
194	Early Russet	N	261	Bonnars Early	P
195	Dakota Gold	N	262	Pound Longshore	P
196	Transparent de Croncels	N			
197	Farmers Early Sweet	P			
198	Laxtons Superb	N			
199	Ringstad	N			
200	Reverand Morgan	N			
201	Booths July Gold	N			
202	Calville Rouge de Automne	N			
203	Manzano	N			
204	Beacon	N			
205	Dyer	N			
206	Peach Melba	N			
207	Earliblaze	N			
208	Mertons Delight	N			

## Southeast Apple Tasting 1997

14 January 1998

by Joe Orsi

During the first week in October, Ed Buyarski, myself, and portions of our families participated in an apple tasting session from apples grown at our test orchards located north of Auke Bay. We collectively tasted 36 varieties of apples and recorded many of their attributes (Table 1). Although the taste ratings listed in the table are pretty straight forward, I should note the tasters did not always reach a consensus for a rating score on each apple, possibly because of some "home orchard" preferences. Also, numbers of certain apple varieties were small, in part because some varieties bore fruit for the first time this year. Consequently, the taste of these varieties may not be truly representative of other apples that were produced from older trees. It is also important to note that an earlier apple tasting date would have yielded different results. As indicated in the table, some varieties with a poor rating were overripe and were good or excellent apples earlier in the season. In Southeast, it would therefore be prudent to grow good quality "early" summer apples (i.e., Liveland Raspberry, Geneva Early, and Red Astrachan), as well as good quality "late" summer apples (i.e., Discovery, Ginger Gold, and Wynoochee Early). It is also not a bad idea to plant a few fail safe producers (i.e., Early Harvest, Yellow Transparent, and Dolgo).

Apple varieties shown in Table 1 were obtained from a number of sources. Many European varieties Ed obtained through the germoplasam repository in Geneva, New York. Other varieties were secured as scion (apple shoots for grafting) or grafted trees through mail-order nurseries or correspondents with fruit explorers in North America. Scion was also obtained by Ed from some of the original trees grown at the Sitka Experimental station at the turn of the century (e.g., varieties Sitka #11 and #20). Hopefully, in ensuing years, other varieties propagated will bear fruit for future comparisons. Anyone interested in scion from the trees listed in the table should contact Ed or myself.

The general flavor of apples grown in Southeast Alaska can be compared to certain commercial varieties. In my opinion, here are examples of what Alaska apples taste like when compared to commercial apples (in parenthesis): Duchess of Oldenberg (Granny Smith), Liveland Raspberry (Gala), Red Astrachan (McIntosh), Ginger Gold (Golden Delicious), Geneva Early (Spartan), and Discovery (Braeburn). A couple varieties tasted were spicy and sweet and had good "stand alone" cider potential; these were Centennial and Sops of Wine. Although not tasted here, there are numerous Dolgo crab apple trees in Juneau which are reported to be valuable in producing jelly.

Table 1.--Apple varieties and their characteristics as determined by taste tests conducted on 05 October 1997<sup>1</sup>.

Color: C=crimson, G=Green, O=Orange, R=red, Y=yellow; Size: S=small<2", M=medium>2"<3", L=large>3"; Texture: S=soft, M=medium, H=hard; Seed Color: W=white, T=tan, B=brown; Description: OR=overripe, RSF=red-streaked flesh; Rating: 1=inferior, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=very good, 5=excellent, 6=superior.

No.	Variety <sup>2</sup>	Color	Size	Texture	Seed color	Crisp	Sweet	Tart	Description	Rating
✓1	<u>Discovery</u>	O/Y	L	H	W	X	X	X	Pear flavor	6
✓2	Ginger Gold	G	M	H	W	X	X	X		6
3	<u>Wynooche Early</u>	G/R	L	H	W	X	X	X	Berry flavor	5
4	Sitka #11	R/Y	M	S	B		X	X	RSF	4
✓5	<u>Grenadier</u>	G/Y	L	H	W			X		4
✓6	<u>July Tart</u>	Y	L	M	W	X	X	X	Tan flesh	4
✓7	Sops of Wine	R/O	S/M	M	T	X	X		Berry flavor, Spicy	4
✓8	<u>Liveland Raspberry</u>	Y/C	M/L	S	B			X	OR, Aromatic	3
✓9	<u>Duchess of Oldenberg</u>	G/R	M	H	W	X		X	Juicy	3
✓10	Summer Rambo	R/G	M/L	H	B	X	X	X	Juicy	3
✓11	Red Astrachan	R/Y	M	S	B		X	X	OR	2
12	<u>Northfield Beauty</u>	R/G	M	M	W				Spicy	2
✓13	<u>Emnath Early</u>	Y	L	M	T			X	Very tart	2
✓14	Carolina Red June	R	S/M	S	T				RSF, Cherry flavor	2
15	Herring Pippin	G/R	M	H	W			X		2
✓16	<u>Redfree</u>	G/R	M	M	B		X	X		2
✓17	Oriole	Y/O	M	M	B		X	X		2
✓18	Early McIntosh	Y	M	M	W			X		2
✓19	Lodi	Y/R	M	M	W			X		2
20	<u>William's Pride</u>	R/Y	M	M	B		X		Astringent	2
21	Sitka #20	Y/C	M/L	S	B			X		2
✓22	<u>Lowland Raspberry</u>	Y/C	M	S	B		X	X		2
✓23	<u>Red Baron</u>	G/R	M	H	W			X		2
✓24	Snovit	Y/R	M	S	T			X	RSF, Aromatic	2
✓25	Parkland	R/C	M	S	B		X		OR, Bland	2
✓26	Venus Pippin	G/R	L	H	W			X	Juicy	2
✓27	Keswick's Codlin	Y	L	S	B			X	Aromatic	2
✓28	<u>Centennial</u>	O/R	S	S	-	X	X	X	OR, Spicy,	2
✓29	<u>Geneva Early</u>	Y/C	M	S	B				OR, RSF, Aromatic	1
✓30	Early Harvest	Y	M	S	B			X	OR	1
✓31	<u>Yellow Transparent</u>	Y	S/M	S	B			X	OR, Mealy	1
✓32	Rescue	R	S	S	B		X	X	OR	1
✓33	Arlet	O/R	S/M	H	W			X	Astringent	1
✓34	Norland	G/R	S/M	H	W		X	X		1
✓35	Avenarius	Y	M	S	B		X		OR, Bitter, Dry	1
✓36	Crimson Beauty	R	S	S	B			X	OR, RSF, Mushy	1

↑ Mother trees and topworks from Joe Orsi's micro-orchard

<sup>1</sup>This taste test date favored later ripening apples for our region; many varieties noted here as overripe were good-excellent eating apples earlier in the season (i.e., Centennial, Geneva Early, Liveland Raspberry, Parkland, Red Astrachan, and Snovit).

<sup>2</sup>Underlined varieties are reported to have some resistance to apple scab.